

**MBNMS Research Activity Panel
Meeting Summary
May 2006**

Host: Monterey Bay Aquarium

Location: Ocean View Conference Room, Monterey Bay Aquarium

Date: Friday, May 12th, 2006; 8:45 am to 12 pm

In Attendance:

RAP Members	
Name	Institution
Cailliet, Greg	Moss Landing Marine Labs
Chavez, Francisco	Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute
DeVogelaere, Andrew (RAP Coordinator)	Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary
Epel, David	Hopkins Marine Station
Faurot-Daniels, Ellen	California Coastal Commission
Grimes, Churchill	NOAA/National Marine Fisheries Service
Harrold, Chris (Chair)*	Monterey Bay Aquarium
Moore, Steve (Vice-chair)†	California State University, Monterey Bay
Pomeroy, Caroline	California Sea Grant Extension Program
Storlazzi, Curt	United States Geological Survey
Tokmakian, Robin	Naval Postgraduate School
Van Dyke, Eric	Elkhorn Slough NERR

* Sanctuary Advisory Council Member: Research (Primary)

† Sanctuary Advisory Council Member: Research (Alternate)

Guests	
Name	Institution
Allen, Mandy	Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute
Anglin, Lorraine	Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary
Burton, Erica	Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary
Hall, Deirdre	Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary
Price, Holly	Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary
Stephens, John	California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo
Sutton, Michael	Monterey Bay Aquarium
Van Sommeran, Sean	Pelagic Shark Research Foundation

CONSENT ITEMS

Introductions/modifications to the agenda (Chris Harrold)

Topics postponed to a future meeting:

- RAP membership: modifications to disciplines and primary and alternate members (Chris Harrold)
- Research permits in State marine reserves (Chris Harrold)

PRESENTATIONS

Pacific Coast Ocean Observing System (PaCOOS) (Churchill Grimes)

Churchill Grimes presented an overview of the Global Ocean Observing System, the developing national system, and the role PaCOOS plays as the west coast component of the national system. PaCOOS is an Ecological Observation System for sustainable use of resources, restoring healthy ecosystems, and ensuring public health. PaCOOS has expanded surveys such as CalCOFI, and established the PaCOOS Governing Board. Future plans include developing new or existing research activities for a fisheries ecosystem-climate forecast using sardines, hake, or krill for example. The focus will be to collect more physical data locally to contribute to the national backbone where more biological data is being collected.

Fish Stock Assessments in the Southern Area of the MBNMS (John Stephens)

John Stephens presented long-term rockfish data on size and abundance relative to depth at the southern boundary of the MBNMS. Trends in young of the year and data on temperature regime shifts in rockfish species over the past three decades were demonstrated. Stephens postulates that little change in rockfish density (CPUE) and size over the past 25 years is due to a combination of nutrient rich waters, cool temperature, isolation, and rigorous fishery regulations in Cambria (CDFG, PFMC). The long-term data will be available in a future CalCOFI report.

UPDATES

Institutional Update: Monterey Bay Aquarium (Chris Harrold & Michael Sutton)

- \$47 million revenue (mostly admission 46%)
- \$45 million expense budget: Center for the Future of the Oceans (CFFO) is approximately 8%
- Report on organization, spending, and research projects: www.mbayaq.org/cr/
- Focus on sea otter husbandry; TAG and TOPP programs (including ecological physiology of tunas, management of captive tunas, white shark tagging/tracking)
- Collaboration with MBNMS: SAC, RAP, SIMoN, etc.

CFFO:

- The Pew report, and US Commission on Ocean Policy recommendations inspired CFFO, which uses advocacy not litigation to promote action
- Four action areas: Network of MPAs in CA, reforming ocean policy at State and Federal levels, support efforts to transform the seafood market so that it favors conservation, and species goals (such as sea otters, white sharks, and tuna)

MBNMS Permit Website Demonstration (Deirdre Hall & Lorraine Anglin)

Deirdre Hall presented changes and updates to the MBNMS permit website coordinated by Lorraine Anglin. Changes include a permit link on the MBNMS homepage that directs the user to common permit triggers for topics such as research, as well as how to obtain a permit. These changes satisfied requests by RAP members to provide clear navigation to permit information on the Sanctuary website.

DISCUSSION ITEMS**Consideration of MPAs in Offshore Waters of the Sanctuary (Holly Price & Chris Harrold)**

Holly Price presented objectives and goals of the MBNMS Marine Protected Areas Working Group that will continue to focus on the development of MPAs in the federal waters of the sanctuary. Currently the working group, made up of multiple stakeholders, is looking to fill information gaps on species, habitat, and the combined associations of the two in several areas of interest offshore. The expertise of RAP members was called upon to provide valuable recommendations and information to the working group during the offshore MPA consideration and/or development process.

SUGGESTED FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Designation of RAP members and alternates/attendance
- Update from MBNMS staff on effectiveness of water quality protection programs